

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
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FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8672
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONO HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 1152\$ NA/A
TAGS: PING CH

SUBJ: FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF MAO'S DEATH: INAUGURATION OF MAUSOLEUM

REF: PEKING 2008

1. PEKING DOMESTIC TELEVISION CARRIED LIVE COVERAGE OF THE
HALF HOUR CEREMONY TO MARK THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF CHAIRMAN
MAO'S PASSING AND TO INAUGURATE THE MAO MEMORIAL HALL. AT
PRECISELY 1500 HOURS LOCAL ON SEPTEMBER 9, CHAIRMAN HUA
KUO-FENG AND THE FOUR PARTY VICE CHAIRMEN FILED ONTO THE
ROSTRUM SET UP OUTSIDE THE NORTH ENTRANCE TO THE MAO
MEMORIAL HALL. AFTER A MOMENT OF REVERENT SILENCE IN
MEMORY OF CHAIRMAN MAO, VICE CHAIRMAN YEH CIEH-YING CALLED
ON HUA TO ADDRESS THOSE PRESENT FOR THE CEREMONY: THE TOP
PRC LEADERSHIP PLUS PERHAPS 10,000 PERSONS SEATED IN
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TIEN AN MEN SQUARE (WHICH HAD BEEN CORDONED OFF SINCE
MID-MORNING).

2. HUA'S FIFTEEN-MINUTE SPEECH CONTAINED NOTHING NEW. IT
STRESSED THAT MAO HAD BEEN THE GREAT REVOLUTIONARY TEACHER
AS WELL AS THE FOUNDER OF THE PARTY AND ARMY, THAT ALL
VICTORIES WERE ATTRIBUTABLE TO MAO'S GUIDANCE AND MAO'S

THOUGHT, AND THAT MAO'S SUCCESSORS WERE DETERMINED TO CARRY OUT REVOLUTION TO THE END AND TO STRUGGLE TO CARRY OUT THE BEHESTS LEFT BEHIND BY MAO. HUA ALSO NOTED IN STANDARD FASHION THE ALLEGED ROLE OF MAO IN COMBATTING THE GANG OF FOUR AND HE ONCE AGAIN ENUMERATED THE SUNDRY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE REGIME (THE TACHAI CONFERENCE, TACHING CONFERENCE, PARTY CONGRESS AND SO ON) SINCE THE SMASHING OF THE AGANG OF FOUR.

3. AFTER PLAYING OF THE INTERNATIONALE, HUA AND HIS FOUR VICE CHAIRMEN WALKED INTO THE MEMORIAL HALL TO VIEW MAO'S LAST REMAINS (TV COVERAGE DID NOT INCLUDE SHOTS OF THE SARCOPHAGUS) FOLLOWED AFTER A SHORT INTERVAL BY THE OTHER POLITBURO MEMBERS AND CHINESE LEADERS PRESENT.

4. THE CHINESE LEADERS WERE RANKED ACCORDING TO A COMBINATION OF PROTOCOL AND STROKE ORDER(E.G., ULANFU RANKED AHEAD OF OTHER POLITBURO MEMBERS OWING TO HIS POST OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE NPC STANDING COMMITTEE) WHICH REVEALED NO NEW INFORMATION ABOUT RELATIVE STANDING OF OLD AND NEW POLITBURO MEMBERS. LI TE-SHENG AND WEI KUO-CHING WERE ABSENT, PRESUMABLY IN SHENYANG AND CANTON RESPECTIVELY.

5. THERE HAS BEEN NO ANNOUNCEMENT TO DATE ON SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GOREIGN COMMUNITY TO FILE PAST MAO'S LAST REMAINS.

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WOODCOCK

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NNN

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